



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 046700-5004-12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

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Marc ALAIA et al.

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Application No.: 09/828,731

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Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: April 9, 2001

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Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
CONTROLLING THE INITIATION  
AND DURATION OF OVERTIME  
INTERVALS IN ELECTRONIC  
AUCTIONS

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Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

OCT 1 1 2002

GROUP 3600

*CC*  
*10/10/03*  
*CC*  
*10/10/03*  
*was filed*  
*until 10/03*  
*any patent*

Prior to the examination of the above-identified continuation application on the merits,

please amend the application as follows:

Please cancel claims 90, 91, 100, 101, 116, 126, and 130-137.

Please amend claims 89, 92, 94-97, 99, 102, 105, 109-113, 117, 119-123 and 125-129 as follows:

*89.* A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

(a) defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for the first lot, the first time interval not being equal to the second time interval;

(b) determining whether the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval; and